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International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) through the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, as well as of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. It indicates how the implementation mechanism established by the Committee works to create synergy between the efforts made by the Committee, the Office and other entities of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental entities, towards increasing the benefits of space science and technology and their applications and thus promoting sustainable development. The report also indicates how the Committee and the Office are working towards achieving the goals identified by the Millennium Summit of the United Nations and the World Summit on Sustainable Development by implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

* A/58/150.

** The present report was prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs following the adoption of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-sixth session in order to reflect in particular the latest developments in the work of the Committee and the action teams.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1	3
II.	Action taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies	2-13	3
	A. Revised structure of the agendas of the Committee's subcommittees	3-4	3
	B. Action teams to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III	5-9	4
	C. Strengthening partnerships with non-governmental entities	10-11	4
	D. Preparations for the review of the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III in 2004	12-13	5
III.	Implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs	14-34	6
	A. Strengthening the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space	15	6
	B. Implementing the capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law	16-18	6
	C. Strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications	19-27	7
	D. Promoting the use of space technologies within the United Nations system	28-29	9
	E. Establishing and strengthening partnerships with non-governmental entities, including industry	30	9
	F. Strengthening a public outreach programme, in particular for young people	31-33	10
	G. Enhancing publication and information services	34	10
IV.	Further enhancement of inter-agency coordination and cooperation	35-46	11
	A. Action taken by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities	36-40	11
	B. Action taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to strengthen inter-agency cooperation	41-46	12
V.	Conclusion	47-50	13

Annexes

I.	Summary of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	16
II.	Participation of Member States and organizations in action teams	22

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III),[1] which was convened in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999, and endorsed the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development".[2] In its resolution 57/116 of 11 December 2002, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

II. Action taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies

2. In implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space takes two complementary approaches. One is for the Committee and its subcommittees to consider selected elements of the strategy contained in the Vienna Declaration as agenda items of those bodies. The other is for the action teams established by the Committee at its forty-fourth session to conduct work throughout the year. The action teams report on their work to the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at their annual sessions for review and approval during their consideration of the agenda item on "Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space".

A. Revised structure of the agendas of the Committee's subcommittees

3. In 1999, the Committee revised the structure of the agendas of its subcommittees, enabling the subcommittees to introduce new agenda items either under multi-year work plans with objectives to be achieved within a fixed time period or as single issues items for discussion to be considered for one session only. An updated list of agenda items that have relevance to the recommendations of UNISPACE III is contained in annex I to the present report. Since 1999, more than a dozen new issues have been considered as agenda items in the Committee or its subcommittees.

4. Some of the items on the agendas of the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee have direct relevance to the work of the action teams. Recommendations made by the Committee and the Subcommittee under those agenda items provide policy guidelines to the respective action teams. The work conducted by the action teams throughout the year also contributes to the work of the Committee and the Subcommittee under the relevant agenda items.

B. Action teams to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III

5. At its forty-fourth session, the Committee established 11 action teams to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III that had been accorded highest priority by Member States or for which there had been an offer by Member States to lead associated activities. The Committee had identified those recommendations based on the results of a survey conducted among Member States. The list of the action teams and participating Member States and organizations is contained in annex II to the present report. The list of contacts in those States and organizations participating in the action teams is being updated on a regular basis on the web site of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.oosa.unvienna.org/unisp-3/followup-teams_contact_list.html).

6. All the 11 action teams established at the forty-fourth session of the Committee reported on the progress made in their work to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fortieth session and to the Committee at its forty-sixth session. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the progress made by the action teams and gave its full support for their work. Having noted that the level of participation of members was limited in the case of some action teams, the Committee urged all members of the action teams to participate actively in and contribute to their work.

7. In 2003, the Action Team on Sustainable Development (recommendation 11) and the Action Team on New and Innovative Sources of Funding (recommendation 32) submitted their final reports in accordance with the work plans that they had submitted to the Subcommittee in 2002.

8. In 2003, the Subcommittee agreed to establish an action team to implement recommendation 9, "Improve knowledge-sharing through the promotion of universal access to space-based communication services". The Subcommittee noted that there was a link between the work to be done by the action team and the preparatory activities for the World Summit on the Information Society. The Committee noted that Greece and Malaysia would co-chair the action team and noted with satisfaction that the action team had submitted to it a document containing objectives, a plan of action and expected output.

9. As at 1 July 2003, more than 50 Member States had joined one or more action teams as members, and 14 were playing active roles by chairing or co-chairing one or more action teams. In addition, 15 entities of the United Nations system, including the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and 23 intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities, including 10 organizations that have permanent observer status with the Committee, have participated in the action teams. Some entities of the United Nations system are playing an active role in the action teams. The World Meteorological Organization, for example, is co-chairing the Action Team on Weather and Climate Forecasting (recommendation 4).

C. Strengthening partnerships with non-governmental entities

10. UNISPACE III recognized the importance of involving civil society, including industry, in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

for the benefit and in the interest of all States. Following a recommendation by UNISPACE III, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee held symposiums to strengthen its partnership with industry, with the participation of speakers from industry, at its sessions in 2000, 2001 and 2002. The next symposium, to be held in 2004, will address small satellite applications in agriculture, health and human security.

11. An increasing number of non-governmental entities have been participating in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as observers. At present, 18 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have permanent observer status with the Committee. Following UNISPACE III, five non-governmental organizations, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the European Association for the International Space Year, the National Space Society of the United States of America, the Spaceweek International Association and the Space Generation Advisory Council were granted permanent observer status with the Committee. In 2003, the Committee recommended that the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African States, an intergovernmental organization, and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, a non-governmental organization, should be granted observer status. The Committee also noted that many activities of non-governmental entities had relevance to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

D. Preparations for the review of the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III in 2004

12. In its resolution 54/68, the General Assembly decided to review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives. In its resolution 57/116, the Assembly agreed that the above review should be conducted in plenary meetings at its fifty-ninth session, under a separate agenda item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space".

13. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Committee reconvened the working group to prepare a report to the Assembly for the review in 2004. The Working Group finalized the outline of the report to the Assembly and discussed elements to be included in it. The Working Group agreed that a draft of the report would be prepared in accordance with a draft list of elements that it had reviewed and modified at its session in 2003 and made recommendations on how the report would reflect input to be provided by the action teams as well as by entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee and space-related regional entities. The Working Group also agreed on a timetable for preparing the report. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group as contained in its report.[3]

III. Implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs

14. In 2000, the Committee endorsed the plan of action proposed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III.[4] In its resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the plan with the necessary resources in 2002. The activities contained in the plan of action have been integrated into the programme of work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the biennium 2002-2003.

A. Strengthening the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

15. The plan of action included a biennial global survey of existing mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities and an analytical study to identify areas of space-related activities where new and innovative mechanisms for cooperation were required. The Office for Outer Space Affairs undertook those actions by assisting and contributing to the work of the action teams. In implementing their respective recommendations, the action teams reviewed existing opportunities and plans for international cooperation and set out to suggest actions that need to be undertaken, in particular through international cooperation.

B. Implementing the capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law

16. A capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law has been integrated into the programme of work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. This is in line with a strategy contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 to assist developing countries in the development of national space legislation and ratification of existing outer space treaties. The home page of the Office contains a searchable index that provides information on the status of signatures and ratification of the five international treaties governing outer space activities (registry.oosa.unvienna.org/oosa/treaty_status/index.stm). The database can be searched by treaty, State or status. The Office also continues to develop, maintain and improve the database on national space laws.

17. The Office organized the first workshop on capacity-building in space law in The Hague from 18 to 21 November 2002 in cooperation with the International Institute of Air and Space Law of the University of Leiden and the Government of the Netherlands. At its forty-second session, the Legal Subcommittee agreed that the Workshop had made a positive contribution to achieving a full understanding and acceptance of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, including providing impetus to some member States to consider ratification of those treaties. The Subcommittee also noted with appreciation that the Workshop had promoted the further development of space law at the national level and had raised awareness of

the need for educational programmes on space law, in particular in developing countries.

18. The Office will organize the next workshop on space law in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, from 3 to 6 November 2003. The Office is currently engaged in discussions with interested Member States to host other space law workshops in the coming years.

C. Strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications

19. Following UNISPACE III, the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/68, called for strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and listed a number of activities to be included in the Programme. The Programme was reoriented in response to that call. It now concentrates on a few themes of major importance for developing countries and aims to establish objectives that can be achieved in the short and medium term. The priority themes of the Programme are: (a) disaster management; (b) satellite communications for tele-education and telemedicine applications; (c) monitoring and protection of the environment, including the prevention of infectious diseases; (d) management of natural resources; and (e) education and capacity-building, including research areas in basic space science. Within each priority theme, the Programme will pursue the following main objectives: (a) capacity-building; and (b) building awareness among decision makers in order to strengthen local support for the operational use of space technologies.

1. Organization of workshops, seminars, symposiums and training courses

20. The plan of action includes the organization of workshops and conferences on advanced space applications and new system developments for programme managers and leaders of space technology development and applications activities in developing countries. The report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-sixth session includes the list of workshops, training courses and symposiums carried out or planned by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2003 and 2004: 12 activities have been carried out or planned in 2003, and 11 activities are currently being planned for 2004.[5]

2. Support to the regional centres for space science and technology education

21. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications continues to support the regional centres for space science and technology education, which were established pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 45/72 of 11 December 1990 and 50/27 of 6 December 1995.

22. The African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education—in English Language started a nine-month course on satellite communications in November 2002. The Centre plans to start nine-month programmes on remote sensing, on basic space science and on satellite meteorology from September 2003. The African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology—in French Language, in 2002, completed a nine-month course on satellite meteorology and

global climate and began a nine-month training programme on satellite communications.

23. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, inaugurated in India in November 1995, has conducted 16 nine-month postgraduate courses, covering such subjects as remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS), satellite communications, satellite meteorology and global climate, as well as space and atmosphere science. A total of 480 scholars from 39 countries, from within and outside the region, have benefited from the educational activities of the Centre.

24. With regard to the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first nine-month course on remote sensing and GIS started at its Brazilian campus in April 2003. The Centre also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, through which the Centre has become affiliated to the United Nations.

25. In support of the operation of the regional centres, the Office for Outer Space Affairs distributed updated model curricula at the university level and across cultures in remote sensing, satellite meteorology and global climate, satellite communications and space and atmosphere science.[6] The curricula were reviewed and updated at the United Nations Expert Meeting on the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, held in Frascati, Italy, from 3 to 7 September 2001).

3. Technical advisory services

26. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications continues its efforts to undertake follow-up actions, wherever feasible, based on the recommendations of the workshops that it has organized. The areas in which the Programme currently provides technical advisory services include the following:

(a) Collaborating with the European Space Agency (ESA) on follow-up activities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia relating to the series of workshops on basic space science;

(b) Providing assistance to the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communication Council to support its growth and operation as well as its preparations for the Council's conference and exhibition in 2003;

(c) Providing assistance to the Disaster Management Support Group of CEOS and supporting the work of the CEOS ad hoc Working Group on Education as its chair;

(d) Collaborating with ESA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in providing technical assistance and expertise required for the joint United Nations/ESA follow-up programme on the use of remote sensing technology in sustainable development, which supports a project in Africa to develop an information system for determining, monitoring and assessing flood areas and to establish an inventory of superficial waters in the Nakambé river basin of Burkina Faso;

(e) Supporting Colombia in its role as pro tempore secretariat to implement the Plan of Action of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas.

4. Long-term fellowships

27. To promote the development of indigenous capability, five long-term fellowships will be awarded for the in-depth training of individuals from developing countries for the period 2003-2004. ESA has offered three fellowships for research in satellite communications and remote sensing technology at its European Space Research and Technology Centre in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, and two fellowships for research in remote sensing technology tenable at its European Space Research Institute in Frascati, Italy.

D. Promoting the use of space technologies within the United Nations system

28. The Office for Outer Space Affairs increased its efforts to bring to the attention of the global conferences held within the United Nations system the potential benefits of space science and technology and their applications to assist in achieving the objectives of such conferences. Prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, the Office distributed a brochure that summarized how space tools are being used by various entities of the United Nations system to promote sustainable development.[7] Immediately prior to the World Summit, the Office organized a symposium on the use of space technology for sustainable development in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 21 to 23 August 2002. The symposium aimed to increase the awareness of the decision makers participating in the World Summit of the usefulness of space technology and its applications to promote sustainable development. With the support of the Government of Austria, the Office will organize a series of three annual symposiums, in 2003-2005, to promote the use of demonstrated capabilities to support actions called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit.

29. The Workshop on the Contribution of Space Communication Technology to Bridging the Digital Divide, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the region of Asia and the Pacific and held in Bangkok from 12 to 16 May 2003, aimed to develop a contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society from the viewpoint of the satellite communications sector.

E. Establishing and strengthening partnerships with non-governmental entities, including industry

30. The Office for Outer Space Affairs continues its efforts to encourage space-related non-governmental organizations and industry to contribute to the activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Office organizes the industry symposium held during the annual session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and assists action teams in involving appropriate non-governmental entities. To bring to the attention of leaders of the space industry the importance of the work of the Committee, the Office has participated in meetings of the space business community, including those during the World Space Congress, held in Houston, Texas, United States of America, from 10 to 19 October 2002.

F. Strengthening a public outreach programme, in particular for young people

31. The Office for Outer Space Affairs continues its efforts to increase opportunities for young people to learn about space science and technology and their benefits for society. In cooperation with Austria and ESA, in 2000-2002 the Office organized a series of three symposiums on enhancing the participation of youth in space activities. That series of symposiums supported the work of the Space Generation Advisory Council, whose membership comprises university students and young professionals interested in space activities, and provided opportunities for members of the Council to meet and discuss its organization of work and future plans.

32. In its resolution 54/68, the General Assembly declared 4 to 10 October World Space Week to celebrate each year at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition. As part of its public outreach programme, the Office continues to organize United Nations events in its efforts to raise the visibility of World Space Week and to act as a catalyst for additional events to be held around the world. The Office also continues to work closely with such non-governmental organizations as the Spaceweek International Association. The Office distributed the annual report of the international celebration of World Space Week for the year 2002 as a special publication, in collaboration with the Spaceweek International Association.[8] In celebration of World Space Week in 2003, the Office plans to hold a month-long exhibition entitled "Space solutions for the world's problems: how the United Nations family is using space technology for sustainable development".

33. To increase public awareness of the benefits of space science and technology, the Office continues to improve the space exhibit at the Vienna International Centre. The exhibit features a Moon rock, models of spacecraft and rockets and interactive computer programs, among other things, and continues to attract the attention of visitors, in particular schoolchildren. In February 2003, the Office hosted a large exhibition from the Government of China on its space programmes. The Office is in discussion with a few member States concerning their offers to provide exhibitions in 2004 and beyond.

G. Enhancing publication and information services

34. To improve the International Space Information Service, the Office uses its home page as an effective and efficient means of disseminating information on the latest developments in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as well as on the activities of the Office. The online index of objects launched into outer space enables all users to have quick access to the information furnished in accordance with the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex). Several member States have used that method to provide supplementary information on their space objects.

IV. Further enhancement of inter-agency coordination and cooperation

35. The Vienna Declaration called for actions to encourage the increased use of space-related systems and services by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and to strengthen the coordination of mutually beneficial activities between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other United Nations entities.

A. Action taken by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

36. The space-related activities of the organizations of the United Nations system are coordinated at the annual session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities. Several United Nations entities and specialized agencies have extensive space-related programmes. Details of those programmes can be found in the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. The latest report (A/AC.105/792) contains an overview of the programme of work for 2003, 2004 and future years.

37. At its twenty-third session, held in Vienna from 22 to 24 January 2003, the Inter-Agency Meeting continued to consider the item entitled "Methods to strengthen further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities". The work of the Inter-Agency Meeting under the item contributed to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in its consideration of a similar item (see para. 42 below). The results of the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting[9] were presented by its Chairman to the Subcommittee.

38. The Inter-Agency Meeting agreed on measures to further enhance information-sharing in such areas as education and training and coordination of positions in space-related areas, for example, in the protection of radio frequency bands needed for their space-related activities. Information on those matters will be exchanged through a web site hosted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs (uncosa.unvienna.org), as well as a web message board, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union. In the area of disaster management, the Meeting expressed its support for the goals of the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (the "International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters'"). The Meeting agreed that the aim should be for all United Nations entities active in the field of disaster response to request and receive data in the context of the Charter. The Inter-Agency Meeting also adopted a revised structure for the annual report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of outer space activities to turn it into a strategic tool for the Meeting to focus its discussions on specific activities and initiatives that should be supported by the United Nations system as a whole.

39. The Inter-Agency Meeting took additional measures to increase interaction with members of the Committee. The Meeting agreed that, starting from its session in 2004, a half-day informal open session, to which members of the Committee would be invited, should be organized immediately following its regular session. The agenda would focus on a particular topic, or topics, to be selected in advance by

the United Nations entities participating in the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting. The Meeting agreed that one of the topics for the first open informal session could be how to raise the visibility of space-related activities within the United Nations system and their contribution to achieving United Nations development goals.

40. The Inter-Agency Meeting is setting in motion its follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Meeting listed action items that were contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit and that had direct or potential relevance to space activities. The Meeting is in the process of completing the list with space-related initiatives and programmes of United Nations entities that respond to the actions called for in the Plan of Implementation. The Meeting invited members of the Committee to conduct a similar exercise. Once completed, the list could serve as a comprehensive survey of the space community's response to the outcomes of the World Summit. The Office will make the completed list available electronically, with links to web sites of the relevant space-related initiatives and programmes, so as to provide further information, in particular to those decision makers who may be interested in follow-up to the World Summit connected with the use of space science and technology.

B. Action taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to strengthen inter-agency cooperation

41. The Committee and its subsidiary bodies continue their efforts to strengthen cooperation with entities of the United Nations system. The Committee took additional measures to contribute to the follow-up to and the preparation for global conferences held within the United Nations system that address social, economic and cultural development.

42. At its fortieth session, the Committee's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued to consider the item "Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system" in accordance with the three-year work plan covering the period from 2001 to 2003. On the basis of recommendations made by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, the Subcommittee endorsed the proposals to hold a half-day informal open session (see para. 39 above), to invite United Nations entities to submit annual reports to the Subcommittee on specific themes and to invite members of the Committee to complete the list of space-related initiatives and programmes that respond to specific actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see para. 40 above).

43. In preparing a report to the General Assembly for its review of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (see paras. 12 and 13 above), the Committee agreed that the recommendations or action items resulting from the United Nations Millennium Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society should be correlated with specific recommendations of UNISPACE III. This would allow the Committee to examine how the implementation of recommendations of UNISPACE III could contribute to the

follow-up to those global conferences. The results of its review will be reflected in the report to the Assembly.

44. "Water" was one of the major themes at the United Nations Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. At its session following the World Summit, the Commission on Sustainable Development agreed that its work should be organized in two-year implementation cycles to carry out the Implementation Plan of the World Summit, and "Water" was selected as one of the major themes in the first two-year cycle, 2004-2005. At its session in 2003, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed to include "Space and water" as an item on its agenda at its forty-seventh session, in 2004. The Committee would, among other things, examine the contributions that space-based data collection, processing and analyses could make to the improvement of water resource management.

45. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2003, underlined the importance of the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society and recommended the active participation of the Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in both phases of the Summit. In that regard, the Office plans to convene a panel of experts during the World Summit to highlight the benefits of satellite communications technology in bridging the digital divide.

46. Since 2002, the Committee has been reviewing national and international efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of space activities under the agenda item "Space and society". At its forty-sixth session, the Committee agreed that under that agenda item "Space and education" should be the major themes from 2004 to 2006 in accordance with the three-year work plan.[10] By 2006, the Committee plans to develop specific action plans to incorporate outer space into education, enhance education in space fields, expanding space tools for education and ensuring that space-based services contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on access to education. The Committee intends to transmit the results of its work to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

V. Conclusion

47. **The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has established a solid and flexible mechanism to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III. Through the consideration of agenda items that have relevance to the recommendations of UNISPACE III, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies provide overall policy guidelines for implementing the recommendations. Their annual sessions also allow for periodic monitoring and review of the progress made. The role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies is strengthened by the action teams that conduct their work throughout the year. The action teams help increase the sense of responsibility among the Member States that lead the teams and the sense of ownership among all States and organizations that participate. By encouraging the participation of non-governmental entities, the action teams provide an avenue for civil society to make an important contribution to the implementation of the recommendations together with Governments. The action teams provide a unique mechanism to**

strengthen cooperation not only between industrialized and developing countries but also between policy makers and scientific and technical experts, as well as between the providers of space-based services and products and user communities. The implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs supports and complements the work of various action teams.

48. **In strengthening and repositioning space activities in the United Nations system, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities are making concerted efforts to bring the benefits of space science and technology and their applications to the attention of the heads of organizations of the United Nations system.**

49. **There has been increasing synergy among the efforts made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities towards the goals identified by UNISPACE III. Progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III would also contribute to achieving some of the goals identified in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see General Assembly resolution 55/2) and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[11] such as the eradication of poverty and protection of the environment through better management of land, forest, ocean and water resources using satellite-derived information, as well as protection of the vulnerable through effective and efficient mitigation of adverse effects of disasters and coordination of emergency responses and humanitarian assistance using satellite images and data and satellite communications.**

50. **The review and appraisal by the General Assembly in 2004 of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III will provide an opportunity to increase the political visibility of and momentum for the efforts made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies. The coming months will be crucial for the Committee and its action teams to accomplish their tasks to yield tangible results before the review by the Assembly in 2004. Their efforts, if supported by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and as many non-governmental entities as possible, will have led to global recognition of the usefulness of space tools in enhancing human development and security. If proved to be successful, the mechanism used and the strategy followed by the Committee in implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III could be considered a model for the follow-up to other conferences held within the United Nations system.**

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3.

[2] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/58/20), annex. I.

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 71.

[5] Ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/58/20), paras. 70-72.

[6] ST/SPACE/15, ST/SPACE/16, ST/SPACE/17 and ST/SPACE/18.

[7] The brochure is available electronically on the home page of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (uncosa.unvienna.org/reports/wssdpub).

[8] ST/SPACE/19.

[9] See A/AC.105/791.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/58/20), para. 234.

[11] A/CONF.199/20, resolution 2.

Annex I

Summary of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

	Recommendation[a]	*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
1	Develop a comprehensive, worldwide environmental monitoring strategy	Yes	"Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite" is considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) at its annual session.	Activities relating to monitoring and protection of the environment, a priority theme of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications
2	Improve the management of Earth's natural resources	Yes	See above; "Space and society" is considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.	Activities relating to management of natural resources, a priority theme of the Programme
3	Develop and implement the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS)		"Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite" is considered by STSC at its annual session.	In response to the invitation by STSC, the IGOS Partnership (IGOS-P) made a presentation on its activities at the fortieth session of STSC. In 2002, STSC noted that the activities of IGOS-P had direct relevance to the recommendation and agreed that there was no need to establish an action team.
4	Enhance weather and climate forecasting	Yes	See above	
5	Minimize harmful effects of space activities on the local and global environment			
6	Improve public health services	Yes	"Use of space technology for the medical sciences and public health" was considered by STSC as a single issue at its 2003 session; "Space-system-based telemedicine" will be considered by STSC under the work plan for the period 2004-2006.	Activities relating to telemedicine, a priority theme of the Programme

	Recommendation[a]	*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
7	Implement an integrated, global system to manage natural disaster mitigation, relief and prevention efforts	Yes	Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system considered by STSC under the work plan covering the period 2001-2003 and as a single issue at the forty-first session of STSC	Activities relating to disaster management, a priority theme of the Programme, which launched a training module consisting of regional workshops on the subject
8	Promote literacy and enhance rural education through tele-education		"Space and education" will be considered under the work plan for the period 2004-2006 under the agenda item "Space and society" by the Committee; the work plan for 2005 includes examination of space-based services and systems for providing educational opportunities in developing countries, including tele-education.	Activities relating to tele-education, one of the priority themes of the Programme
9	Improve knowledge-sharing through the promotion of universal access to space-based communication services	Yes		
10	Improve universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems	Yes		The Programme has launched a training module consisting of regional workshops on the use and applications of global navigation satellite systems.
11	Promote sustainable development by applying results of space research	Yes		One of the main goals of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and the Programme; a new series of symposiums of the Programme held from 2003 to 2005 on space applications for sustainable development: supporting the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
12	Improve scientific knowledge of near and outer space through cooperative activities			The series of United Nations/European Space Agency workshops on basic space science

	Recommendation[a]	*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
13	Improve the protection of the near-Earth space and outer space environments through mitigation of space debris		Space debris has been considered by STSC since before UNISPACE III and in accordance with the work plan for the period 2002-2005.	
14	Improve the international coordination of activities related to near-Earth objects	Yes		
15	Protect the near-Earth space and outer space environments through further research on the use of nuclear power sources		The use of nuclear power sources in outer space has been considered by STSC since before UNISPACE III, also through the Working Group under the item, and in accordance with the work plans for the periods 2000-2003 and 2003-2006.	
16	Minimize interference with bands in the electromagnetic spectrum			Information was provided by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Astronomical Union (IAU) at the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of STSC on their activities concerning the narrower subject of frequency interference with radio astronomy.
17	Enhance capacity-building by developing human and budgetary resources	Yes	"Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications" was considered by STSC at its thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions.	One of the main objectives of the Programme in carrying out its activities under each priority theme
18	Increase awareness among decision makers and the general public of the importance of space activities	Yes	"Space and society" is considered by the Committee.	One of the main objectives of the Programme in carrying out activities under each priority theme
19	Establish/strengthen national mechanisms for the coordination of space activities			

	Recommendation[a]	*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
20	Improve the sharing of information on and use of spin-offs from space activities		Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status has been considered by the Committee since before UNISPACE III.	
21	Provide educational opportunities for youth to learn more about space science and technology and participate in space activities		"Government and private activities to promote education in space science and engineering" was considered by STSC at its thirty-eighth session; "Space and society" is considered by the Committee, with a special focus on "Space and education" under the work plan for the period 2004-2006.	
22	Create within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a consultative mechanism to facilitate the participation of youth in cooperative space-related activities			The Space Generation Advisory Council was granted permanent observer status with the Committee by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/51; the Programme has held a series of symposiums on enhancing the participation of youth in space activities, supporting the work of the Space Generation Advisory Council.
23	Create awards to recognize outstanding contributions in space activity			
24	Reaffirm the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subcommittees and its secretariat in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space			
25	Ensure sustainable funding mechanisms for regional centres affiliated to the United Nations and enhance support for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications			Fund-raising activities by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to support activities of the Programme

	Recommendation[a]	*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
26	Encourage the increased use of space-related systems and services by the organizations of the United Nations system and by the private sector		"Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system" was considered by STSC under the work plan for the period 2001-2003; the Inter-Agency Meeting reports annually to STSC on the matter.	
27	Invite States to ratify or accede to, and invite intergovernmental organizations to declare acceptance of, the outer space treaties		Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its annual sessions	
28	Further consider the agenda structure and working methods of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees		Agenda items of both of the subcommittees of the Committee; considered under other matters by the Committee	
29	Strengthen the coordination of mutually beneficial activities between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other United Nations entities		"Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system" was considered by STSC under the work plan for the period 2001-2003; the Inter-Agency Meeting reports annually to STSC on the matter.	
30	Call upon the international community to consider the recommendations of the regional preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III			

	Recommendation[a]	*Action team*[b] *established*	*Relevant agenda item of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies*	*Other activities*
31	Establish a special voluntary United Nations fund for the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations			Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/68, the terms of reference of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications have been revised to include the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.
32	Identify new and innovative sources of financing to support the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations	Yes	Related to mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications, considered by STSC at its thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions.	The United Nations/IAF workshops held since 2001 include a session to address this subject.
33	Promote further the peaceful uses of outer space through cooperation between "space-faring" and "non-space-faring" as well as among developing countries, and involvement of civil society, including industry			

[a] The recommendations have been numbered in accordance with their order of appearance in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development" adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

[b] For more information on the action teams, see annex II.

Annex II

Participation of Member States and organizations in action teams

			Countries that are members of the action team (as at 1 July 2003)		*Entities of the United Nations system and organizations that are participating in the action team (as at 1 July 2003)*	
	Action team[a]	*Chair(s)*	*Number*	*Countries*	*Number*	*Entities and organizations*
1	Environmental Monitoring Strategy	Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation and Syrian Arab Republic	23	Argentina, Australia, Belarus, China, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America	10	Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),[b] European Space Agency (ESA), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Manila Observatory
2	Management of Earth's Natural Resources	India	27	Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States	6	ECE, ESCAP, UNESCO,[b] SGAC, Manila Observatory, Philippine Astronomical Society (PAS)
4	Weather and Climate Forecasting	Portugal, World Meteorological Organization	25	Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United States	5	ESCAP, UNESCO,[b] World Meteorological Organization, Manila Observatory, PAS

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	Action team[a]	Chair(s)	Number	Countries	Number	Entities and organizations
6	Public Health	Canada	23	Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United States	5	ESCAP, World Health Organization (WHO),[c] SGAC, Manila Observatory, PAS
7	Disaster Management	Canada, China, France	41	Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States	14	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ESCAP, UNEP, United Nations Office for Project Services, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO, WHO,[c] ESA, European Association for the International Space Year (EURISY), Manila Observatory, PAS, SGAC
9	Knowledge-sharing	Greece, Malaysia	9	Belarus, Dominican Republic, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey	1	SGAC
10	Global Navigation Satellite Systems	Italy, United States	33	Australia, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United States	12	ESCAP, International Telecommunication Union, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Civil GPS Service Interface Committee, ESA, EURISY, European Commission, European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, International Association of Institutes of Navigation, International Bureau of Weights and Measures, International Federation of Surveyors, International GPS Service

	Action team[a]	Chair(s)	Countries that are members of the action team (as at 1 July 2003)		Entities of the United Nations system and organizations that are participating in the action team (as at 1 July 2003)	
			Number	Countries	Number	Entities and organizations
11	Sustainable development	Nigeria	27	Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States	8	ESCAP, UNESCO,[b] ISPRS, EURISY, Manila Observatory, National Space Society (NSS), PAS, SGAC
14	Near-Earth objects	United Kingdom	17	Australia, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States	7	ESA, Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), European Space Science Committee of the European Science Foundation, International Astronomical Union (IAU), NSS, SGAC, The Spaceguard Foundation
17	Capacity-building	Japan	25	Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United States	6	ESCAP, UNESCO, COSPAR, ESA, IAU, Manila Observatory, SGAC
18	Awareness increase	Austria, United States	22	Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arabic Republic, United States	14	ESCAP, UNESCO,[b] Austrian Space Agency, COSPAR, ESA, EURISY, International Law Association, International Space University, ISPRS, Manila Observatory, NSS, PAS, SGAC, Spaceweek International Association

			Countries that are members of the action team (as at 1 July 2003)		Entities of the United Nations system and organizations that are participating in the action team (as at 1 July 2003)	
	Action team[a]	Chair(s)	Number	Countries	Number	Entities and organizations
32	Innovative Sources of Financing	France	14	Algeria, Australia, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic	6	ESCAP, ESA, Manila Observatory, NSS, PAS, SGAC

[a] The number of the action team corresponds to the number assigned to the respective recommendation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), as indicated in annex I.

[b] To be communicated through the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

[c] Only to receive information.